



ALBANIA: WOMEN'S LEGAL RIGHTS INITIATIVE
OF THE WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT IQC
TRIP REPORT: APRIL 19-APRIL 29, 2004

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SECTION I

Travel Dates, Destination(s) and Purpose

A. Travel Dates and Destination(s)

Teresa Cannady, legal specialist, traveled to Albania from April 19-29, 2004 to follow up on programmatic and administrative issues related to the Women's Legal Rights (WLR) Initiative in Albania and to participate in a two day training program on Anti-trafficking for the Serious Crimes Court.

B. Purpose of Travel

The purpose of this trip was to ensure effective implementation of project activities including a training program for the Serious Crimes Court and monitoring of an on-going training program at the Magistrate's School. As scheduled, the legal specialist participated in organizing and conducting the two day anti-trafficking seminar held in cooperation with the Albania Magistrate's School. The Serious Crimes Court is a newly organized court with two levels including a first instance court and an appeals division. All 19 members of the court attended the training along with four local attorneys. The training focused was on methods to combat trafficking and manage trafficking cases through the use of international and national law. (*See separate activity report for full details of the implementation of this project activity*).

The legal specialist also conducted monitoring of the on-going series of trainings presently being conducted at the magistrate's school for the second year students. The series includes 14 sessions each on anti-trafficking, family violence, and gender awareness and sensitivity. The legal specialist observed the interaction of students and instructors and spoke separately with students and instructors to obtain their opinions about the value of this program.

The legal specialist also met with USAID and various partners to ensure that implementation of the project was progressing as planned and to further develop our relationships. The Legal specialist conducted meetings with staff to ensure that implementation of activities are on schedule and that management and administrative systems are functioning in an effective manner. The system of daily e-mails and weekly telephone conferences was determined by both local staff and the legal specialist to be adequate. A review of all data collected for monitoring and evaluation purposes was made by the legal specialist and discussed with local staff. Local staff provided a detailed report based on each of the indicators utilized in the Albania program. Discussions were also held with staff regarding the continuing implementation of project activities and plans for year three activities.

SECTION II

Trip Results

A. Office Operations

Legal specialist Teresa Cannady met with the WLR local team to discuss the status of program implementation, to finalize plans and logistics for the anti-trafficking training, and to organize meetings with partners. Annex A contains the agenda of meetings and list of people with whom WLR met. The team discussed systems of communication (daily e-mails and weekly teleconferences) and agreed that those were efficient ways of staying informed and updated on program outcomes and challenges related to technical and administrative issues. Further discussions were held on the collection of data for monitoring and evaluation. The local team presented a report compiling all the data and indicating the sources which was reviewed and accepted by the home office legal specialist.

B. Anti-trafficking Training for Serious Crimes Court

On April 22-23, an anti-trafficking training was held at the Magistrate's School. Twenty three participants attended this training on the implementation of national and international law. Judge Renate Winter served as the International Trainer and Judge Artan Hoxha served as the national trainer. Judge Winter is a judge on the Youth Court in Austria and also serves as the acting President of the Special Crimes Court in Sierra Leone as well as the special UN Courts of Kosovo. Judge Hoxha is a member of the Supreme Court of Albania and is well recognized by the local legal community for his expertise in this field of law. Legal Specialist, Teresa Cannady and Legal Advisor Emira Shkurti also conducted break-out training sessions for the lawyer participants. Arian Giantris, anti-trafficking advisor for USAID, also attended portions of the training.

The two day training focused on both international and national law and included break out sessions for judges and lawyers to deal with issues separately in addition to the plenary sessions. Additional topics included the protection of victims and witness protection laws. The evaluations from the training were very positive and the participants all indicated that they would recommend this training to their colleagues and would be interested in more training on this subject. A full report of this activity including training agendas, participants, evaluations and details of the program will be provided separately. A copy of the agenda is included in this report as Annex A.

C. Training Series at Magistrate's School

During the past six weeks, WLR/Albania in cooperation with the Magistrate's School has conducted a training series for second year students. The second year students attend courses on Monday's and Friday's and work in the courts the remainder of the week for practical application of their training. The three courses have included 14 sessions each on anti-trafficking, family violence and gender awareness and sensitivity. Six local trainers specialized in law and sociology served as trainers.

Legal Specialist, Teresa Cannady, observed one session in each of the three areas and discussed the progress of the program with the trainers, students, and the director of the magistrate's school. The students were very grateful to have an opportunity to learn about these new topics. The school and the trainers are very pleased with the responsiveness of the students and felt that the introduction of these new topics will better equip these future judges and prosecutors to handle their jobs. A full report of this activity will be provided separately and will include the course outline, evaluation results, participants, and complete details of the training program.

D. WLR/Albania Office Reception/Networking Meeting with Partners

On Tuesday evening, April 27th, a reception was held at the WLR/Albania office in Tirana. Approximately 30 persons attended including the USAID Mission Director Harry Birnholz, USAID D & G Officer Eric Richardson, other USAID implementers, international and local NGO representatives, and members of the local community. This event was an excellent opportunity to network with partners and to share the results of our program to date.

SECTION III

Next Steps and Recommendations

A. Next Steps

The local team will continue to work to implement the Action Plan, focusing on coordinating planned activities with local partners, hiring local consultants and supervising their work and deliverables, and securing proper and efficient logistics of training activities that take place in and outside of Tirana. Ms. Cannady will conduct oversight trips as needed during the next quarters, particularly for key activities including additional trainings and the introduction of bench books. She will also supervise the local team and work with the home office support team on administrative procedures.

B. Recommendations to Mission

USAID Mission support in Albania has continued to be positive and supportive of the WLR activities. USAID/ODI's director Harry Birnholz participated in the opening ceremony of the training series at the Albanian Magistrate's school and has expressed his continuing commitment to support WLR activities. A meeting with USAID D & G Officer, Eric Richardson confirmed the mission's satisfaction with activities implemented by the WLR Albania program. WLR Albania will continue to cooperate closely with the mission and to keep them informed of all upcoming events and the implementation of our action plan.

SECTION IV

Key Contacts and Meetings

During the first day of the trip a meeting was held with Judge Renate Winter and Judge Artan Hoxha to finalize the agenda for the anti-trafficking training and to discuss details of the program. On the following day the WLR/Albania staff as well as Legal Specialist, Teresa Cannady, worked closely with Renate Winter to finalize the agenda, materials, and all logistical issues. Materials were copied and packets were assembled for each participant. The training took place on Thursday and Friday, April 22-23, 2004.

The following week a number of meetings were held with partners including the following:

Committee for Equal Opportunities at the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs - April 26, 2004.

Emira Shkurti, Legal Advisor and Teresa Cannady, legal specialist met with Nora Malaj, the chairperson of the committee, Eva Sheshi, Specialist for the Committee, a legal advisor for the committee and a specialist from the division on International Foreign Relations. Ms. Malaj explained the special status of the Committee that is under the supervision of the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs. The committee's task is to coordinate governmental, NGO and international efforts to address gender issues in the country. Also, the Committee for Equal Opportunities assists the government of Albania in preparing its strategies and policies related to gender and women's issues. Ms. Malaj pointed out some of the most important issues they are facing including domestic violence, inequality and discrimination, trafficking, lack of awareness and understanding of gender and gender issues, even at the highest levels of decision making. Their main objective is to fight discrimination against women. They are the Central Authority for coordinating the activities of the various agencies and international organizations. They report twice a year to the inter-ministerial committee on their achievements and obstacles. They also report twice per year to Court on Human Rights in Strasbourg, France.

Ms. Malaj was very interested in the focus areas of WLR Initiative in Albania and wanted to find avenues of cooperation. The WLR Team proposed organizing a training program on domestic violence. The Committee will invite participants from different levels and government institutions, ministries, police, decision making bodies etc. The goal of this event will be to raise awareness of this issue and the need for a separate domestic violence law as well as to begin coordination of the various agencies to provide the necessary support for victims. A target date was set for the second half of June or early July to hold the training in Tirana. The field office will maintain contacts with the Committee to work out details for the organization of this training.

USAID – Eric Richardson, D & G Officer – April 27, 2004

Teresa Cannady met with D & G Officer Eric Richardson to update him on progress during the past several moments and to obtain feedback the project to date. Mr. Richardson was very satisfied with the work the project is conducting and noted that he only hears good reports from

our activities. Ms. Cannady provided details of the anti-trafficking training held the prior week as well as an update on the training series at the Magistrate's school. Mr. Richardson encouraged the program to continue to move forward with activities planned for the remainder of the year.

Citizen's Advocacy Office – Mariana Bello – April 27, 2004

Ms. Bello briefed the WLR team on CAO's efforts to obtain additional funding for the Domestic Violence Campaign. CAO representatives have solicited funding and cooperation from UNICEF, the Dutch embassy, OSCE, and other local NGOs. The Dutch embassy has approved funding for the project, to be combined with the WLR initiative funding, to draft a separate DV law and raise awareness in the community of this issue. UNICEF has also expressed their interest in cooperating with CAO on the issue.

The WLR team also discussed with Ms. Bello her interest in serving as a trainer in the proposed DV seminar to be held in cooperation with the Committee for Equal Opportunities. Given Ms. Bello's background in sociology and her prior experience in this field, she would be an excellent choice as a trainer for this program. She expressed her interest to serve as a trainer for this activity and to coordinate with us in organizing the event. A follow up meeting will be held next week with Ms. Shkurti to discuss further details and obtain the necessary documentation from Ms. Bello for her approval as a trainer.

OPDAT – David Lewis - April 27, 2004

The WLR team discussed with Mr. Lewis the recent trainings conducted with judges of the Serious Crimes Court as well as the training series at the Magistrate's school. He asked about the interest of the participant in the topics, the experts we engaged as lecturers during the seminar, the discussions among the participants and the benefits for them. Mr. Lewis asked whether we would recommend organizing a similar seminar for the prosecutors of the Serious Crimes Court. Mr. Lewis is interested in organizing an anti-trafficking seminar for the prosecutors of the Serious Crimes Court as a complement to our program with the judges.

Millennium Women's Network – Jeta Katro - April 28, 2004

Emria Shkurti and Teresa Cannady met with Ms. Katro, chairperson of the committee of Women's Millennium Group as well as other members of the committee, Ms. Fatmira Luli, legal specialist, Ms. Lajla Pernaska, director of the Institute for Gender and Women's Studies and Rajmonda, general secretary of the committee. Women's Millennium Group is a network of women NGOs working on the implementation of the Beijing platform. Ms. Katro and her colleagues described their activities which included a number of publications, preparation of the draft law on the Gender Equality, collection of statistical data on women, studies and surveys on domestic violence, and training. They also offer community services for trafficked women and vulnerable groups, advising and lobbying the government to include women's perspective in their policy-making, and the translation of UN instruments into Albania. The group also briefed us on the status of the draft law on Gender Equality and its progress to date. The previous day

they had been summoned to Parliament to answer questions about implementation of the law. They are hopeful of its passage after some amendments are made to the present version.

UNICEF, Gender Focal Point – Gentiana Sulo – April 28, 2004

Ms. Sulo provided a description of UNICEF's Domestic Violence project in Albania which is funded by the Dutch government and is in its third year of implementation. The program focuses on developing capacities of social systems and the media related to aspects of domestic violence, on research and awareness activities and policy-making. Their recent policy efforts included assisting the Committee for Equal Opportunities to prepare an initial action plan for the government with regard to domestic violence. Ms. Sulo was very interested in WLR's cooperation with CAO for our DV campaign and offered the contribution of UNICEF in organizing a study tour. This program would be for three persons, most likely those working on the draft DV law, to travel to countries in the region, probably Kosovo and Macedonia, in order to learn from their experience in drafting similar laws and their enforcement experience regarding domestic violence. Ms. Cannady agreed to provide useful information and suggestions from her contacts with NGOs in Macedonia that have this experience. The UNICEF representative agreed to share with WLR the findings of the quantitative and qualitative survey they have conducted on the problem of domestic violence as soon as it is finalized.

Hanna Drvota – Kvinna til Kvinna – April 28, 2004

Ms. Cannady met with Hanna Drvota the director of the KTK office in Tirana to learn more about their activities, particularly in the regions and discuss possible cooperation. KTK conducts programs with a number of NGOs on trafficking and violence issues. WLR has shared brochures with KTK for distribution in cities where they work and will cooperate with them in the future as we look for partners in the region.

ANNEX A

Anti-trafficking training agenda

AGENDA
Anti-Trafficking Seminar
Tirana, Albania
April 22-23, 2004

Day One

- 8:30 - 9:00 Registration
- 9:00- 9:30 Welcome and Introduction of Participants – Teresa Cannady
- 9:30 - 10:15 International Convention and Protocols – Renate Winter
- 10:15 -11:00 National Law – Artan Hoxha
- 11:00-11:30 Coffee Break
- 11:30 -12:30 Questions and answers session
- 12:30 – 2:00 Lunch
- 2:00 – 3:45 Organized crime/Trafficking/Smuggling
Judges debate session-Renate Winter
Lawyers debate session – Teresa Cannady
- 3:45 – 4:00 Coffee Break
- 4:00 – 5:00 Review and discussion of Cases in Albania/ Judges session - Artan Hoxha
Lawyers debate session – Teresa Cannady

Day Two

- 9:00 – 9:45 Witness protection – Legal and Social Implications - Renate Winter
- 9:45- 10:30 Special investigation techniques under the new criminal procedure amendments
A. Hoxha
- 10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break
- 11:00 - 12.00 Question and answers

- 12:00 – 2:00 Lunch
- 2:00 – 3:45 Room for discussion and debates: Judges session – Renate Winter and Artan Hoxha
Lawyers' session – Teresa Cannady and Emira Shkurti
- 3:45 – 4:00 Coffee Break
- 4:00 – 4:45 Discussion. Practical issues (collaboration with /need for related services, overcoming handicaps etc.)
Judges session – Renate Winter and Artan Hoxha
Lawyers' session – Teresa Cannady and Emira Shkurti
- 4:45 – 5:00 Evaluation



This seminar is funded by The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

ANNEX B

PHOTOGRAPH FROM ANTI-TRAFFICKING TRAINING



Anti Trafficking Training held at the Magistrate's school on April 22-23, 2004. Head table from left: Emira Shkurti, WLR/Albania legal adviser; Judge Renate Winter, International Trainer; translator standing with Teresa Cannady, WLR Legal Specialist; Judge Artan Hoxha, National Trainer; Pasquale Profitti, Council of Europe; Arta Mandro, Deputy Director of Magistrate's School.

ANNEX C

Costs of Trip

Chemonics International Inc. Women's Legal Rights Initiative Albania Trip Cost				
	Cost Category	Days	Rate	Total
I.	SALARIES			
A.	Home Office Staff			
	Teresa Cannady, Legal Specialist	9.5	346.15	\$3,288
	TOTAL, SALARIES			\$3,288
II.	FRINGE	Days	Rate	Total
A.	Corporate Fringe Benefits			
	Home Office Staff	\$3,288	44.00%	\$1,447
	TOTAL, FRINGE			\$1,447
III.	OVERHEAD	Days	Rate	Total
A.	Home Office Staff	\$4,735	69.00%	\$3,267
	TOTAL, OVERHEAD			\$3,267
IV.	TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION	Days	Rate	Total
A.	International Travel: Washington, DC/Tirana			
	Teresa Cannady, Legal Specialist	1	\$2,198	\$2,198
B.	Ground Transportation	1	\$ 165	\$ 165
	TOTAL, TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION			\$2,799
V.	ALLOWANCES	Unit	Rate	Total
A.	Per Diem	1	\$1,760	\$1,760
	TOTAL, ALLOWANCES			\$1,760
VI.	OTHER DIRECT COSTS	Unit	Rate	Total
	DBA Insurance	\$3,288	2.15%	\$71
	Medical Evacuation Insurance (Medex)	1	\$12	\$12
	Passports, Visas, Entry Fees	2	\$13	\$26

		Laptop and Projector Rental	18	\$13	\$234
		TOTAL, ODCs			\$343
		SUBTOTAL, ITEMS I-VI			\$12,904
	VII.	G&A, I-VI	\$12,904	5.00%	\$645
		SUBTOTAL, ITEMS I-VII			\$13,549
	VIII.	FEE, Items I-VII	\$13,549	5.00%	\$677
		TOTAL ESTIMATED COST PLUS FIXED FEE			\$14,226